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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/726,265	MACEROLA, AGOSTINO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	VanThu Nguyen	2824	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 December 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>03/29/2004</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____. |
|---|---|


 VanThu Nguyen
 Primary Examiner
 Art Unit: 2824

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claims 2-7, 9-11, 13-14, line 1 of each, insert --high voltage generation and regulation-- before "circuit".

2. Claims 1-24 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art made of record and considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure does not teach or suggest the claimed limitations. Sali et al. (U.S. Patent 5,999,456), Jinbo (U.S. Patent 6,456,534), Riemson et al. (U.S. Patent 5,781,477), Chung (U.S. Patent 6,031,774), taken individually or in combination, do not teach the claimed invention having the positive high voltage signal/path being discharged at a rate as claimed in claims 1, 8, 12, 15, 18, 20, 23.

Sali et al. disclose a memory device as shown in FIG. 1, having a high voltage generation and regulation circuit as shown in FIGS. 2-13, which comprising a positive high voltage pump PP shown in FIG. 2 used for erase operation; a negative high voltage pump NP_i shown in FIG. 5 used for erase operation; and an auxiliary voltage generator shown in FIGS. 4, 6-12 that generating auxiliary voltage such as VDEP shown in FIG. 8, and control signal DISCH shown in FIG. 9 for controlling a rate of discharge of the negative high voltage pump NP_i, instead of the positive high voltage pump PP.

Art Unit: 2824

Jinbo discloses memory device as shown in FIG. 1, having a positive high voltage boosting circuit 4 used for erase operation; a negative voltage step-up circuit 2 used for erase operation; and an discharge control circuit 20 that generating an auxiliary voltage CBL and control signals as inputs to MDN4 and MDN5 shown in FIG. 4 for controlling the discharge of the positive high voltage signal. However, Jinbo does not teach that the discharge is at a rate.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VanThu Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1881. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:30pm.

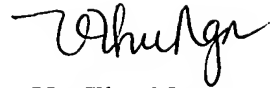
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms can be reached on (571) 272-1869. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 10/726,265
Art Unit: 2824

Page 4

May 12, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'VanThu Nguyen', written in a cursive style.

VanThu Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2824